

Message Text

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E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR

SUBJECT: MORNING SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT REPORTS

1. CALLAGHAN IN TROUBLE

EMBASSY LONDON REPORTS THAT THE ODDS ON THE LABOR GOVERNMENT'S SURVIVAL WORSENEED OVER THE WEEKEND. CALLAGHAN CAN COUNT ON 309 VOTES AGAINST A TOTAL CONSERVATIVE FIGURE OF 294 (INCLUDING THE WELSH AND SCOTTISH NATIONALISTS). AMONG THE REMAINING 24 MPS, ALL TILTING AGAINST THE GOVERNMENT, TWO GROUPS HOLD THE KEY:

--THE LIBERALS (13) ARE DEMANDING A PUBLIC UNDERTAKING AGAINST A "FURTHER EXTENSION OF SOCIALISM." THE EM-
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BASSY VIEWS THIS AS AN INITIAL BARGAINING POSITION, NOTING THAT SOME OBSERVERS BELIEVE SEVERAL LIBERAL MPS ARE RELUCTANT TO VOTE AGAINST THE GOVERNMENT BECAUSE A GENERAL ELECTION WOULD PLACE THEIR OWN SEATS IN JEOPARDY.

--THE EIGHT UNITED ULSTER UNIONIST COALITION MPS AND

TWO INDEPENDENT UNIONISTS ARE SAID TO BE PREPARED TO VOTE AGAINST THE GOVERNMENT IN THE ABSENCE OF A BINDING OFFER OF LEGISLATIVE DEVOLUTION.

EMBASSY COMMENT: OUR ESTIMATE AT THIS POINT IS THAT THE GOVERNMENT'S CHANCES FOR SUCCESS ARE AROUND 40/60, BUT CALLAGHAN'S TASK IS BY NO MEANS IMPOSSIBLE. (CONFIDENTIAL) LONDON 4615 AND (UNCLASSIFIED) BELFAST 95, 3/21.)

2. CHARTER 77: AFTER PATOCKA'S DEATH

EMBASSY PRAGUE REPORTS ON CHARTER 77 DEVELOPMENTS FOLLOWING THE DEATH OF JAN PATOCKA:

--THE GOVERNMENT CLOSELY MONITORED ACCESS TO THE FUNERAL, CHECKING IDENTITIES AND PHOTOGRAPHING MOURNERS, WHILE A NUMBER OF WELL-KNOWN CHARTER ADHERENTS WERE CALLED IN FOR QUESTIONING TO PREVENT THEM FROM ATTENDING.

--A RUDE PRAVO COMMENTARY WAS SO DEFENSIVE IN ITS STATEMENTS REGARDING PATOCKA'S HISTORY OF ILL HEALTH THAT IT MAY RAISE QUESTIONS ABOUT THE CIRCUMSTANCES OF HIS DEATH.

--FORMER FOREIGN MINISTER JIRI HAJEK AND TEN OTHER FORMER OFFICIALS UNDER DUBCEK HAVE APPEALED TO WESTERN COMMUNIST PARTIES TO TRY TO STOP THE REGIME'S CAMPAIGN OF INTIMIDATION.

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EMBASSY COMMENT: THE REGIME IS OBVIOUSLY KEEPING HEAVY PRESSURE ON THE DISSIDENTS, BUT WE HAVE THE IMPRESSION THAT PATOCKA'S DEATH MAY HAVE STRENGTHENED THE RESOLVE OF THE CHARTER 77 GROUP TO CARRY FORWARD ITS STRUGGLE. (LIMITED OFFICIAL USE) PRAGUE 721, 3/18.)

3. ATTITUDES OF A JANATA GOVERNMENT

EMBASSY NEW DELHI ANALYZES THE JANATA PARTY'S VIEWS ON THREE ISSUES OF PARTICULAR INTEREST TO THE US:

--HUMAN RIGHTS: SINCE MOST OF THE PRINCIPAL PARTY LEADERS HAVE SUFFERED IMPRISONMENT AND DEPRIVATION, IT IS CLEAR THAT THEIR POSITION ON HUMAN RIGHTS IS VERY CLOSE TO, IF NOT IDENTICAL WITH, THAT OF THE US.

--INDO-SOVIET RELATIONS: THE PARTY PLANK STRESSES ADHERENCE TO GENUINE NON-ALIGNMENT, EXCLUDING SPECIAL

TIES TO ANY SUPERPOWER. INDIVIDUAL LEADERS OF THE PARTY, HOWEVER, HAVE BEEN CONSISTENTLY ANTI-COMMUNIST AND SUSPICIOUS OF THE USSR.

--NUCLEAR POLICY: THE PARTY HAS NOT DETERMINED ITS POSITION BUT IT APPEARS TO FAVOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS AND A MORE NATIONALISTIC LINE ON NUCLEAR AFFAIRS. (CONFIDENTIAL) NEW DELHI 3944, 3/21.)

4. GAZETA MERCANTIL ON US-BRAZILIAN RELATIONS

EMBASSY BRASILIA REPORTS THAT AN APPARENTLY GOVERNMENT-INSPIRED ARTICLE IN GAZETA MERCANTIL STATES THAT:

--THE BRAZILIAN GOVERNMENT EXPECTS THE US TO APPLY FINANCIAL PRESSURE ON BRAZIL, PERHAPS BY TYING INTER-SECRET

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NATIONAL BANK LOANS TO THE ACCEPTANCE OF NON-PROLIFERATION PRINCIPLES.

--THE DENUNCIATION OF THE US/BRAZILIAN MILITARY AGREEMENT DOES NOT "PREOCCUPY" BRAZIL.

--JOINT NAVAL OPERATIONS WITH THE US WILL BE DROPPED IN FAVOR OF OPERATIONS WITH THE UNITED KINGDOM AND FRANCE. (CONFIDENTIAL) BRASILIA 2180, 3/21.)

5. NGOUABI ASSASSINATION: FLEC CLAIMS CREDIT

CABINDA LIBERATION FRONT (FLEC) REPRESENTATIVE CARLOS PUNA TOLD EMBASSY LISBON MARCH 21 THAT FLEC WAS RESPONSIBLE FOR THE ASSASSINATION OF CONGOLESE PRESIDENT NGOUABI. HE SAID THE ORGANIZATION HAD NOT PUBLICLY ANNOUNCED ITS ROLE BECAUSE THE WELL-KNOWN TIES BETWEEN FLEC AND ZAIRE COULD LEAD CONGO-BRAZZAVILLE TO BLAME ZAIRE AND PRECIPITATE OPEN WARFARE BETWEEN THEM. PUNA ADDED THAT THE SECOND HALF OF THE FLEC "COBRA 77" PLAN CALLS FOR THE ASSASSINATION OF ANGOLAN PRESIDENT NETO AND POLITICAL BUREAU CHIEF LARA. FLEC MEN, SAID PUNA, ARE ALREADY IN PLACE. (SECRET) LISBON 2259 (LIMDIS), 3/21.)

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